Restructuring of NHAI

243. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the board of NHAI has approved restructuring package for the organization;

(b) what is the "flexi-organization structure" approved by the board of NHAI;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are not in favour of restructuring the board of NHAI; and

(d) what progress the NHAI made with regard to inter-connecting of NHAI offices with their construction and toll booths across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Board of NHAI (the Authority) has agreed to certain proposals, which includes the following:

(i) Setting up of a Project Appraisal Cell equipped with multidisciplinary skills to appraise and evaluate projects with private sector participation.

(ii) Creation of cells for planning, standardization, quality and safety.

(iii) Building of a permanent core staff fo NHAI.

(c) It has been felt that the issue of restructuring the Authority requires further deliberations before final decision is taken.

(d) NHAI officers are already connected by fax, phone and e-mail. It is proposed to further improve the connectivity by establishing a computer Wide Area Network (WAN) to inter connect all its field offices and toll plazas with the Head Quarters. The tenders have already been invited for the procurement of the whole system.

Roads in J and K

244. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the upgradation of the State Road from

Jammu to Suchetgarh in Jammu and Kashmir has been sanctioned till R.S. Pura;

(b) if so, the reasons for not upgrading it till Suchetgarh; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for widening and upgradation of Satwari Airport-R.S. Pura road, which is part of Jammu- Suchetgarh state road has been approved by the Ministry under Central Road Fund (CRF).

(b) and (c) The existing single lane road stretch from R.S. Pura to Suchetgarh is only being maintained in traffic worthy condition by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for operational considerations of the Army.

Transportation of goods itmes

245. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian traders are loosing around Rs. 1200 crores every year during transportation of goods items throughout India due to irresponsible attitude of Transport Companies;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering to have stringent rules for Road Transport Companies for avoiding transportation loss in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (e) The Government is concerned with a framework for determination of liability between the consignor and transporters under the Carriers' Act, 1865. Road transport falls under the purview of the State Government. Freight transport operations by road are almost entirely in the private sector. No statistics is maintained by this Ministry regarding the losses incurred by traders during transportation of goods.